

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 2, 4-8 and 16-19 were previously pending in the application. New claim 20 is added. Therefore, claims 2, 4-8 and 16-20 are presented for consideration.

Claims 2, 4-8, 16-17 and 19 are rejected as unpatentable over TSUDA et al. 5,936,688 in view of NAKAI 6,219,119. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 17 is amended to emphasize that the closed geometric shapes (of the depressed areas) are defined by a plurality of virtual lines that are at a height between the depressed areas and the protrusions.

As disclosed on page 28, lines 2-9 of the present application, for example, the depressed areas 52 are formed by a plurality of unified protrusions. The edges of the protrusions 51 constitute the sides of the depressed areas 52. As seen in figures 7 and 8 of the present application, protrusions 51 are interconnected with each other and form depressions 52 therebetween. In the embodiment of Figures 7 and 8, the depressions have a closed geometric shape of a triangle at a height between d and Δd . Of course, other geometric shapes are contemplated.

As set forth in the Official Action, TSUDA et al. do not teach or suggest that the depressed areas having a closed geometric shape and are isolated from others of the depressed areas as recited in claim 17.

Figures 5 and 8 of NAKAI are offered in an attempt to overcome the shortcomings of TSUDA. However, NAKAI do not teach that for which it is offered.

Figure 8 of NAKAI is a cross-sectional view showing protrusions 1 and depressions 4 as noted in the Official Action. However, Figure 5 of NAKAI (ref. 2) does not show a closed geometric shape. Rather, Figure 5 of NAKAI shows another cross-sectional view with protrusions 1 interconnected. Reference character 2 in Figure 5 denotes a low refractive index region and is not a closed geometric shape.

In order to clarify this point, Applicants submit herewith, for demonstration purposes only, a marked-up version of Figure 7 of NAKAI. This figure is a top view showing the top of protrusions 1. This figure also shows the outline of the bumpy region 3. Such bumpy region 3, if extended in its entirety, would create depressions 4 therebetween. As seen in this marked-up version of Figure 7 of NAKAI, theses depressions 4 would be interconnected and not define a closed geometric shape. (Compare with Figure 7 of the present application.)

For completeness, two of the protrusions have been interconnected (as per Figure 5 of NAKAI). As appreciated from

this mark-up, it can be seen that the low refractive index region 2 extends under the "bridge" between two protrusions and does not form a closed geometric shape.

The above-noted feature is missing from the references, is absent from the combination and thus would not be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 2, 4-8 and 16 depend from claim 17 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 19 is also amended to further define the depressed areas and provides that the closed geometric shape is defined by a plurality of virtual lines formed at a distance from a reference surface between a top of the layer and a distance that a top of one of the depressed areas is from the reference surface.

The analysis above regarding claim 17 is equally applicable to claim 19.

New claim 20 is similar to claim 19 and includes depressed areas having a definite geometric shape as seen in plan view and being isolated from each other. Claim 20 is also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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LM/mjr
March 30, 2005

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s) :

- a marked-up version of Figure 7 of Nakai et al.
for demonstration purposes only.